

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 0317Z 031056Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 /022 W

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P 030821Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6680

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS STATEMENT RE MARTIAL LAW IN MINDANAO

REF: STATE 046344

1. MARCOS' FORMULATION ON SUSPENSION OF MARTIAL LAW IN PMA SPEECH WAS AS USUAL AMBIGUOUS. IN INITIAL REFERENCE HE SPOKE OF "SUSPENDING EFFECTS OF MARTIAL LAW." LATER HE SAID HE WAS "LIFTING MARTIAL LAW." GUIDED PRESS DUTIFULLY EXPLICATED TEXT (WHICH NOT PUBLISHED) MARCH 2. HEADLINES OF REPORTS OF SPEECH READ "MARTIAL LAW EFFECTS LIFTED IN POLL AREA." ARTICLES ALSO REPORT POST SPEECH INTERVIEW WITH NEWSMEN IN WHICH PRESIDENT "CLARIFIED" HIS REMARKS. MARCOS EXPLAINED THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EFFECTS OF MARTIAL LAW MEANS THAT THERE WILL BE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, DISCUSSION AND DEBATE ON PLEBISCITE ISSUES, AS WELL AS FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. MARCOS ALSO SIAD CURFEW IN PROVINCES EFFECTED WOULD BE LIFTED.

2. AS DEPARTMENT RECOGNIED PARA 2 REFTTEL, SUSPENSION OF EFFECTS OF MARTIAL LAW DURING PLEBISCITE PERIOD PARALLELS FREE DEBATE PRECEDING REFERENDA. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF PRVIOUS OCCASIONS WHEN MARCOS USED "SUSPENSION OF MARTIAL LAW."

3. AS FAR AS WE KNOW TEXT OF ORDER NOT PUBLISHED AND
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MAY NOT EXIST. MARCOS CLAIMED THAT DECREE CALLING FOR PLEBISCITE SIGNED AT FEBRUARY 14 BATASAN BAYAN MEETING CONSTITUTES ORDER.

4. OPPOSITION (SENATOR SALONGA) COMMENTED TO EMBOFF MARCH 1 THAT MARCOS' STATEMENT TYPICAL PRESS AGENCY. HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT AUGURED FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN

MARTIAL LAW REGIME.

5. COMMENT: WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S SENSITIVITY TO ANY INDICATION MARCOS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING EASING OR EVEN LIFTING MARTIAL LAW, BUT THERE NOTHING TO SUGGEST THIS IN MARCOS' PMA SPEECH. IT IS VINTAGE NEW SOCIETY NEWSPEAK.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, MARTIAL LAW
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA03172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770073-0310
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770397/aaaadhuu.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 46344
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3220794
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MARCOS STATEMENT RE MARTIAL LAW IN MINDANAO
TAGS: PINS, PINT, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7d1138be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009